

JADÉ FADOJUTIMI



Jadé Fadojutimi, *An Unspoilt Ritual*, 2017, oil on canvas, 140 x 200.5 cm

Navigating through an emotional landscape, Jadé Fadojutimi's paintings offer a window into the artist's fractured identity and quest for self-knowledge. For Fadojutimi, painting is comparable to gazing into a window pane, enabling the artist to see her own reflection, the wider context in which she lives, and the distorted fusion of these two images and how her identity is informed by, and bleeds into, her surroundings. This existential process enables Fadojutimi to unearth how her own sense of self is constructed, using the canvas as a type of sounding board as she grapples with the memories, both good and bad, of everyday experiences. As a result, her paintings convey inarticulable forms of emotion in vivid, expressive fashion.

Fadojutimi often explores how we adorn ourselves with clothes and accessories in order to construct a sense of self, with patterned stockings, bows and swatches of fabric recurring throughout. Outlines of objects that resonate with the artist, unbeknownst to the viewer, also feature surreptitiously within the work. Fadojutimi delves into how our environment informs our identity, the trauma of feeling displaced and not belonging to one's surroundings; recent works capture scenes of 'familiar unfamiliarity' where far-flung places and foliage bleed in and out of abstraction, manifesting the artist's desperation to distance herself from reality.

Fadojutimi explains that her works 'are all questioning the existence of feelings and reactions to daily experiences. They question our perceptions and perspectives whilst manifesting struggles. Through trying to understand this, more questions are posed and my personal engagement with paint becomes a release. The frustration and envy that comes through the work is a realisation that these perceptions are not justified and instead sewn in subconsciously through society. They recognise a lack of self caused by automatically thinking that my identity is already defined, and also a frustration that paint can accept these characteristics better than myself.'

PIPPY HOULDSWORTH GALLERY

Jadé Fadojutimi (b. 1993) lives and works in London. She received her BA from Slade School of Fine Art and her MA from Royal College of Art, London, where she was awarded the Hine Painting Prize 2017. She was also shortlisted this year for the Contemporary British Painting Prize and the Griffin Art Prize. Fadojutimi will have a solo exhibition at Galerie Gisela Capitain, Cologne towards the end of the year and will have her first institutional exhibition in January 2019 with PEER, London.